



DAVIS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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News Release

2 Hepatitis A Cases Related To Nationwide Outbreak Identified In Davis County

(Clearfield, Utah) – Davis County Health Department staff members are investigating 2 hepatitis A cases related to a nationwide outbreak of hepatitis A linked to a product sold by Costco. The Townsend Farms Organic Antioxidant Blend is a frozen berry blend containing cherries, blueberries, pomegranate seeds, red raspberries, and strawberries.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified at least 49 case of hepatitis A with onset since mid-March 2013 that may be linked to this outbreak. Cases have been reported in Hawaii, Nevada, California, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah. Costco has removed the product from its shelves and is notifying consumers who purchased the berries since late February 2013.

County health officials urge consumers to check their freezers for this product. The berries should be returned to the place of purchase or discarded immediately, regardless of when they were purchased. Even if some of the product has been eaten without anyone becoming ill, the rest of the product should be discarded.

According to a Townsend Farms news release, the product was sold at Costco warehouse stores under the product name **Townsend Farms Organic Antioxidant Blend, 3 lb. bag** and UPC 0 78414 404448. The recalled codes are located on the back of the package with the words “BEST BY”; followed by the code T012415 sequentially through T053115, followed by a letter. All of these letter designations are included in this recall for the lot codes listed above.

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Persons who have consumed the berries within the last two weeks and have never received hepatitis A vaccine should contact their health care provider to find out if they should be vaccinated or receive immune globulin (IG). Anyone who has received 2 doses of hepatitis A vaccine or has been previously diagnosed by a physician with hepatitis A is unlikely to become ill and does not need additional vaccine. Davis County citizens who do not have a health care provider should contact the Davis County Health Department at 801-525-5200 about hepatitis A vaccine recommendations.

Hepatitis A is a viral illness that attacks the liver. People usually get the disease from consuming a contaminated food or by having close contact with someone who is infected.

Symptoms of hepatitis A appear two-to-six weeks after exposure and include: jaundice (yellow eyes or skin), mild fever, abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, pale stools, and dark urine. Illness typically lasts one to two weeks and can range from mild symptoms to severe illness requiring hospitalization. Hepatitis A can be spread from person-to-person so it is important that persons who suspect they have hepatitis A not to go to work, especially if they work in food service, health care, or child care.

More information about this outbreak can be found on the CDC and FDA websites at www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/Outbreaks/2013/A1b-03-31/index.html or <http://www.fda.gov/Food/RecallsOutbreaksEmergencies/Outbreaks/ucm354698.htm> or by calling the Davis County Health Department at (801) 525-5200.

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